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Great Britain, 1,909,445; Germany, 1,035,720. In addition to these sections are the countries of Egypt, Tripoli, Morocco, the Central States of the Soudan on the north and the Orange Free State and Transvaal on the south, the Republic of Liberia on the west coast, and what is known as the South African Republic. The principal possessions of Portugal are Angola and Mozambique. France controls Algeria, Tunis, Senegal and its dependencies, the Sahara and Western Soudan, a portion of the gold coast and what is shown on the map as French Congo on the west coast. The island of Madagascar is also assigned to France, but her hold upon the island is by no means secure. The natives showing such a spirit of independence that there may be difficulty in overcoming their power.

Germany has in the "Cameroons" 193,000 square miles, in Damaraland 385,000 square miles, and East Africa 450,000 square miles.

British Africa includes her west coast colonies, 445,000 square miles; Cape Colony, Basuto, Zulu and Bechuanaland, 500,000 square miles; Natal, 21,000 square miles; the South African Republic or Company and Nyasaland, 500,000 square miles; East Africa, 400,000 square miles, and the Somali Coast 38,000 square miles.

By the above figures it will be seen that France has within her "sphere of influence" between three and four hundred thousand square miles more area of territory than any one of the other powers, but it will be remembered that much of her territory is desert, while Great Britain controls the best sections of the continent, and the value of her possessions outrivals that of any of the other powers. Germany probably is the second in rank, viewed from a political and commercial standpoint.

Italy's strip of territory on the east coast, extending from the Gulf of Aden to the Juba River has cost her dearly. A standing army has to be maintained against the Arab hosts adjacent and nothing but a military occupation can be claimed. It is a question whether her "protectorate" over Abyssinia is very profitable. The future of the Congo Free State depends largely upon conditions that cannot be foretold. The commercial and political interests of the whole civilized world combine to open the equatorial section of Africa by means of railroads connecting the west coast with the great inland lakes. Belgium began the work, but it is doubtful if so small a power of Europe will be able long to hold her African position of influence even on the Congo and its tributaries.

The British, Germans and French are sending expeditions to the West African coast to act together in establishing the boundary lines of their frontiers.

The French explorer, M. Crampel, has gone up the Congo River to the Mobangi River, hoping to cross the country to the Shari River and follow it down to Lake Tchad, and return across Sahara to Algiers, which will open to the world important geographical information. This region is now almost a white spot on the map. Explorations are going on along all the navigable rivers of the Congo basin. The opening of Mashonaland by the British South African Company promises a vast region of rich mining country. It is thought to be richer than any section of South Africa. This is a most desirable section, capable of furnishing thousands of Europeans with healthful homes. Great Britain has an open eye for such colonies, and is ever ready to occupy territory that will yield her revenue.—*Journal of Education*.

PROFESSOR E. J. PHELPS ON ARBITRATION.

In the April number we published an article of Mr. Phelps on the Behring Sea, containing the following paragraph:

"Arbitration has been spoken of as a means of composing the dispute. But that has been already proposed by the United States, without success. The offer has been met by a counter proposal to arbitrate, not the matter in hand, but an incidental and collateral question. That resource is therefore out of the question. It would be easier to settle the controversy than to settle the points and preliminaries of an arbitration. . . . Arbitration is just now the panacea through which all swords are to become ploughshares. In time it will be seen whether it is a universal remedy, or whether, like numerous other panaceas which have from time to time engaged the attention of the world, it is only an alleviation, useful in certain cases. The present instance certainly goes to show that it is a resource more attractive in theory than available in practice."

As showing that such reasoning is opposed to the recent advance of public opinion in this country as well as in England, the following sentences may be cited from an able discussion of the subject in the *New York Nation*:

"We presume the article was written before Lord Salisbury and Mr. Blaine had agreed on arbitration as the sensible, rational and humane course. The lives of men slain in the smallest war between England and America being far more valuable than those of all the seals that ever migrated or gestated, it is hardly necessary to discuss this point further. But all Mr. Phelps' friends on both sides of the water will be sorry to see a man of his standing counselling violence as a desirable substitute, under any circumstances, for a possible resort to an impartial tribunal administering, under the rules of right reasoning, established international usage.

"His dislike for arbitration clearly influences, if it does not shape, his view as to the function of the press during international controversies. It is natural that one who believes in war as a not undesirable mode of settling international quarrels, should look on all previous discussion as in some degree preparation for war, and expect the national press during a diplomatic discussion to occupy itself simply in inflaming popular passions in support of a bellicose issue. But the better portion of the press in all civilized countries has long refused to play this role. . . . Journalists who respect themselves no longer cry ditto to every extravagance and monstrosity which ambitious politicians momentarily in power produce to tickle the ears of the groundlings."

—A recent traveller in the East mentions: "In one of the Armenian villages I am not a little surprised at finding a lone German; he says he prefers an agricultural life in that country with all its disadvantages, to the hard, grinding struggle for existence, and the compulsory military service of the Fatherland. Here," he went on to explain, "there is no foamy lager, no money, no comfort, no amusement of any kind, but there is individual liberty, and it is very easy making a living; therefore it is for me a better country than Germany."